

RECEIVED

AUG 28 1908 11 Westminster Road

Mr. Speer.

Rochester, N. Y.

August 27, 1908.

My dear Miss Higbie.

I shall be very glad indeed to help Mr. Speer in any way I can in the preparation of a biographical sketch of Dr. Chuenut.

I can write for him a little sketch of her early life, and medical education, and I have all her letters written during her first eight years in China from which I can select passages for his use. I do not suppose he would care to go over these letters himself, - but if he would, I will send those I think most suited to his use, marking out the most

personal portion, and asking  
that they shall not be read  
except by himself or me.  
I fear a Miss Parsons.

Can you give me any  
idea of the amount of ma-  
terial he can use on the  
date within which it should  
be ready?

I am very busy, and shall  
probably have to take Sundays  
for the preparation of the ma-  
terial, which will be truly a  
labor of love.

You asked for other sources  
of information. Any of the  
Dee Afee family could tell of  
her years at Park College. Dr.  
Abraham Dee Afee, now in New  
York, knew her. I think  
Ernest Dee Afee is now presi-  
dent of Park College, and he

was a daughter of Dr. Alcott-  
Doe. Hugh Taylor now in Spain (?)  
and Miss Margaret Best of  
Korea were her intimate friends  
during Park College days and  
I think she always correspond-  
ed with them.

Dr. Rue Edwards and Dr.  
Hiles were her best friends in  
the mission field.

I was asked a few years  
ago by a minister in China,  
whose name I have forgotten,  
to let him have Dr. Alcott's  
letters for use in preparing a  
biography he intended writing.  
I told him I should be glad  
to talk with him about her  
but that I could not put her  
personal letters into the hands  
of a stranger. He told me he  
had never seen or known Dr.

Account. Later, a request  
of similar nature came from  
a Park College graduate,  
Mrs. Hanafin (Minnie Darling-  
ton) whom I also refused,  
as she was to write in collab-  
oration with this minister,  
and as I know she can  
not be trusted to stick to  
the fact truth in any state-  
ment she makes. I am telling  
you this in order to warn  
you against placing reliance  
in any material they may  
have prepared which may come  
into Mr. Spicer's hands.

Dr. Account know Mrs.

Hanafin for many years and  
exercised a strong influence over  
her and was very much at-  
tached to her, but she  
never felt the least confidence

in her statements.

Yours very truly -

Katharine de Witt.

August 28th, 1908.

Miss Katherine DeWitt,  
211 Westminster Road,  
Rochester, N. Y.

My dear Miss DeWitt:-

Thank you so much for your kind letter of yesterday.

I know Mr. Speer will be delighted to have your help.

I hardly know what to say in regard to sending the letters. Perhaps it would save time to do so, and also save you the labor of copying the extracts, and, in going over them, Mr. Speer could very quickly determine what to use. If they are sent, your wishes regarding them will of course be very carefully observed.

Regarding the amount of material, I think the sketch is to consist of between 3,000 and 4,000 words. There seems to be very little material available; the missionaries to whom you refer are all on the field and there will not be time to write to them, and Dr. Chestnut seems to have written very little to the Board while on the field.

Miss Parsons will of course furnish all that she can, and I have written to President McAfee, the Medical College and the Training School in Chicago, and to several of Dr. Chestnut's classmates, whose names appeared in the "Park College Record" for December, 1905.

Thank you for the information regarding one of the classmates, whose name I had not seen.

The sketch is to be ready, I believe, early in September.

I am sorry there is not more time, and trust this will not be too great a tax upon you.

Very sincerely yours,

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Sec'y to Mr. Speer.

211 Westminster Road, Rochester, N. Y.

RECEIVED

August 30, 1908.

SEP 1 1908

My dear Miss Higbie:

Mr. Speer.

Yesterday was an almost free day for me so I prepared the little sketch which I inclose. It is intended for Mr. Speer's own enlightenment, and he may make any use of it he likes, but I do not expect him to do more than glean from it. I have written very frankly about Dr. Chesnut's early life from my memory of what she told me of it, it can not all be repeated as Mr. Merwin is still living, but I thought Mr. Speer would be glad to have a clear idea from which to work.

I was asked this last spring to give a little account of Dr. Chesnut at a missionary meeting. At that time I looked over all her letters, taking all my spare time for days to the task, and I marked such portions as I wanted to read. I am sending these same letters to Mr. Speer. If I had more time and could go over the whole collection again, I might make a little different choice for his use, but this will give a fair idea of them all. I have marked out a few personal or professional portions. I do not in the least mind his giving you any portions to copy if he wishes to do so.

I have another packet of letters about equal in size to this from which I might gather other parts if he wishes more, as well as the more general mass. If he wishes special information on any point that I can supply, I should be glad to have him ask for it.

The letters are arranged chronologically as far as possible, Dr. Chesnut was careless about dating them and I unfortunately did not keep them in order as they came. It is not always possible to place them accurately from the context. The

last three were received after I had heard of her death.

When she first went to China, I used to read scraps of her letters to my patients and they became so interested in her work that they wanted to keep in touch with it, and I used to circulate her letters, marking out personal parts. The people who read them included Jews and Catholics, and one business man used to read them to his associates in his office. I received two or three a month during the eight years of her first stay in China. I thought she would like to refer to them in giving her missionary talks when she returned, but she would not look at them, and as I was living in cramped quarters, and as her letters grew more personal and less general, I did not save those she wrote on her return from her furlough and have only these three at the end. I have many pictures, but I presume there are plenty of those at Mr. Speer's disposal there.

Yours sincerely,

*Katherine de Mot.*



September 1st, 1908.

Miss Katherine De Witt,

211 Westminster Road,

Rochester, N. Y.

My dear Miss De Witt:-

Your good letter of August 30th and the packet of letters have just come to hand.

It was very good of you to do this so promptly, and I am glad to have this material ready for Mr. Speer upon his return this week. I appreciate your confidence, and trust you will have no anxiety regarding the letters, which will be placed in Mr. Speer's hands unopened.

Thanking you, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Dr. Eleanor Chesnut.

Some knowledge of Dr. Chesnut's early life is necessary to an understanding of her character and traits. The beauty of her life lay so largely in the fact that she overcame so many obstacles of heredity, temperament, ill health, poverty, and environment.

She was born on January 8, 1868 ( I think), her father was Irish, and he must have been a worthless creature, for the family was in straightened circumstances and he deserted his wife and four children at about the time Eleanor was born, and was never heard of again. Mrs. Chesnut was a Manx woman, her maiden name was Cain. She had the sympathy and respect of her neighbors in Waterloo, Iowa, where she lived, and <sup>where she</sup> died, soon after the birth of her twin babies, Jim and Eleanor. The other two children were boys, and all three boys were taken by an aunt in Missouri, a sister of Mrs. Chesnut, at the time of the latter's death. Eleanor was adopted, but not legally, by neighbors of scanty means, Mr. and Mrs. Merwin. She was called Nellie Merwin as a child.

These people had had no children but thought an adopted daughter would be a help and comfort; instead, they found her a care and a problem, for she was not the sort of child who settles down amiably to the fate provided for her but was fierce, wild, untameable, filled with weird ambitions, and fighting against control. She felt keenly from the time of her first understanding of it her desertion, her lack of mother love or of a real home. I am sure the Merwins did not mean to be unkind but they tried to discipline her into what they considered proper behaviour and she was wretched and lonely and early learned to lie freely to shield herself.

All her life she was quick to resent any supposed injustice and would fight for her rights, but no one was more easily melted by kindness or more controlled by love. Some one who lived in Waterloo when she was a child told a friend who asked about her that she used to see her often when she was a little thing, shut up in the Merwins' tiny yard, peering through the pickets with her fierce black eyes and flying dark hair, with the suggestion of a caged wild beast.

Her whole happiness lay in her school life, and she became possessed with a mad desire for a good education, it was her one aim. Even this seemed to be about to be frustrated, for when she was twelve, the Merwins decided that she need not go to school any more but should stay at home and help with the work. There followed a miserable time of struggle and they were rather relieved than otherwise when Eleanor declared that she would leave them and go to her aunt in Missouri. She never returned to Waterloo to live, but always remained on friendly terms with the Merwins, and when Mrs. Merwin died and Mr. Merwin was struggling to make a living with rather feeble strength, she denied herself many necessities in order to send him money saved from her salary on the mission field. He seems always to have been fond of her, he is still living, an old man, in California. He has a second wife with whom he is happy, and is able to support himself comfortably.

When Eleanor went to her aunt the prospect seemed no brighter than before for obtaining her heart's desire, an education, - though she was happier. Her aunt was kind, and though rather poor, willingly took her in although she had several children of her own and Eleanor's brothers. The home was a farm in a most densely ignorant "back-woods" community, where

school privileges were of the most primitive sort. Also her aunt, brothers, and cousins had no sympathy with her ambitions and there was no money to spare for education if they had had.

I do not remember how long she lived there, a year or two perhaps, when from her despair there arose a gleam of hope when in some roundabout way she heard of Park College. [ In characteristic fashion she wrote directly to Dr. MacAfee, telling him her longings and difficulties and he wrote to her to come to Parkville. She entered the Academy and remained until she had completed the full college course, usually staying there summers as well as winters. Here she found an entirely new and congenial environment. She entered Park College a forlorn unapproachable girl with many faults of many kinds, she found in Dr. McAfee a true friend whose patience was inexhaustible and whose influence remained with her always. She also found many warm friends among the students, her surroundings were congenial and she became a Christian and was as zealously honest <sup>as she later declared</sup> and she had been before unreliable. ] A

Her physical welfare was not well looked after. The college was poor and was operated on the principle of praying for its needs and never going into debt. Consequently, the students did not always have enough food or sufficient nourishment for their active lives, for they not only studied but did all the work of the institution. Eleanor has told me of many meals which consisted of sweet potatoes and sorghum. Sometimes they even sat down to the table with only crackers and water, but prayed for food which was sure to come before the next meal.

Parkville was in a malarious district and Eleanor had some long severe illnesses there and never was really well afterward.

[ I do not know how her personal expenses were met. Her eldest brother was now at work and occasionally sent her a little money, and Mrs. McAfee had clothes given her for needy students, from which store Eleanor was largely clothed, a charity which she never could receive in any spirit of gratitude but which she accepted of necessity and with bitter resentment. All these experiences made her in after life full of understanding, gentleness and tact for others who were poor and forlorn and proud.]

Toward the close of her course she decided to become a missionary, saying sadly that no one needed her here, for she has tried in vain to help and influence her brothers. She offered herself to the Board of the Northwest and they decided to educate her as a medical missionary.

Immediately after her graduation she went to Chicago and entered the Woman's Medical College. During the first year she [lived in an attic, cooked her own meals and almost starved. At the close of this first year of medical education, the Board decided to have her take a course in nursing as well, and that spring she entered the Illinois Training School for Nurses in Chicago for the course which was then two years. This was a new and trying experience. Eleanor always resented authority which hampered her own methods, also she was rather careless and inexact in her ways, and training school discipline was a continual thorn in her flesh. She loved the poor and suffering patients who were under her care and was tender and untiring in her care, faithful to the last detail where essentials were concerned. She felt no sympathy for the rich who lay in bed and let themselves be waited upon. Her own spirit was so indefatigable even in illness that she never could be anything but

impatient with those who did not exert themselves to the utmost. It was after she had been three months in training that I entered the school and was put into Eleanor's room, the former room-mates she had had having been discharged, one after another, as she told me encouragingly the first night. We grew steadily in friendship and finally she was adopted as almost another daughter by my mother whose love and care were very precious to her starved heart. She always spent her half days and parts of Sundays at my home and grew to think of it as her home too. We were so constantly together when off duty, that neither of us made other intimate friends in the school.

Fortunately the superintendents of the school saw the finer traits of Eleanor's character and although her way was difficult they did not make it unnecessarily hard. One good result of the course was that Eleanor had, on graduating, a means of support and as the year in the medical college is short, she was able by taking private cases during the summer, to earn enough to support herself in greater comfort through the following year of study in the medical college.

Two years more finished her study. The medical college which had been an <sup>e</sup> excellent one at first, was at that time slowly going down hill and was later abandoned, so that she did not have as good medical equipment as she should have had, and that, with her extreme conscientiousness, accounts for her continual assertions in her letters that she is not a good doctor. Her associates said she did excellent work.

After leaving the medical college, she spent a winter in the Womans' Reformatory in South Framingham, Mass, as assistant to the resident physician, a very useful and happy experience and then took a short course in the Moody Bible Institute.]

If her letters could be all put in order they would show a constant growth in love and charity. Her self sacrificin g spirit was almost too great. She was constantly helping those at home, her eldest brother who became an invalid in a state institution, and his wife and two children. These were constantly appealing to her for aid and she would do without butter and coffee to help them and was really impatient with me when I once ventured to investigate their real need instead of sending as much of her hard earned money as she had directed. She felt keenly her obligations to Park College and sent what was to her a large amount toward an endowment they were raising.

She truly loved the Chinese for whom she worked and among whom she lived and thought of them as truly her friends. She was not afraid through the long weeks when she was at Lien Chow alone. She has a painfully humble opinion of herself and her work and was always afraid of being over-estimated. Mrs. Edwards told me that though the hospital was always in danger of thieves she would not have bars at her window as she thought it showed distrust of the people. She had her woman's and her patients' windows barred as she would not run any risk for them.

When during her first furlough we were in England together, I had to make her let me keep her money, for the beggars on the street wrung her heart and she wished to give to them all. The disagreeable and undeserving appealed to her even more than others in need. She would say: "It is so dreadful to be so disagreeable that no one loves you." All her actions were based not on common sense but on a yearning to help those who needed help.

Dr. Chesnut never lost her love of study. She learned more of Chinese than was expected or required, reading the classics from her interest in them and learning to talk in the local dialect that she might not have to approach her patients through an interpreter. She did a good deal of translating, one of her latest employments was a phrase book which she was compiling for Mr. and Mrs. Peale to help them in their study of the knowledge. She was also translating a text book on nursing from English into Chinese, for she had students in nursing as well as medicine. Mrs. Edwards told me that she understood the talk of the Chinese as she passed them in the streets or villages so much better than the other missionaries did that she anticipated and dreaded the catastrophe which came at last.

She picked up by herself enough French and German to enjoy reading simple books in those languages. All her tastes were those of a cultivated person, -her friends, her books, her pleasures all indicated a high standard.

She loved music but had opportunity for only a few lessons on the piano at the Bible Institute. She managed to play the organ <sup>in church</sup> and always wrote humorously of her attempts, but that too gave her a good deal of pleasure.

She was a charming companion, talking interestingly and with a touch of humor or listening with unfeigned interest and shining eyes. I had only once a chance to hear her give a missionary talk and it was unlike any other I have listened to in that she did not touch upon her own work but told her hearers about the Chinese traits, their difficulties in getting our point of view and of the excellent work done by the native pastors and Bible women who often understood them best.



# The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago

MISS CHARLOTTE A. CARY, SUPERINTENDENT OF THE WOMEN

H. P. CROWELL, PRESIDENT  
A. P. FITT, SECRETARY

R. A. TORREY, SUP'T.  
JAMES M. GRAY, DEAN

230 LA SALLE AVENUE  
CHICAGO, ILL.

September 25, 1908.

Miss May Higbie,  
156 Fifth Avenue,  
New York,

Miss dear Miss Higbie:-

You will pardon the long delay in replying to your letter of inquiry concerning Dr. Eleanor Chestnut. The former Superintendent was away and in the pressure of the new year's work, your letter was overlooked

I find that Dr. Chestnut was a student here during the summer of 1894: later, in 1903, she was here for two months.

I do not find any letter from her, doubtless her correspondence was with Miss E. S. Strong, former Superintendent, whose present address is 122 Susquehanna Ave., Pittston, Penna.

Regretting that I cannot help you more, I am,

Very truly yours,

*Charlotte A. Cary*

RECEIVED

SEP 28 1908

Mr. Speer.

August 26th, 1908.

Mr. H. S. Hay,

Superintendent Illinois Training School for Nurses,

504 Monroe St., Chicago, Ills.

Dear Mr. Hay:-

Your letter of August 26th has just been received,  
and I thank you, on behalf of Mr. Speer, for the trouble which you have  
taken. I trust we may get some good material as a result of your  
efforts.

Very sincerely yours,



Secretary to Mr. Robert E. Speer.

Illinois Training School for Nurses

304 Honore Street

RECEIVED

AUG 28 1908 Chicago, August 26,

1908

Miss May Higbie,  
New York, City.

Mr. Speer.

Dear Madam:-

Your request for material for a biographical sketch of Dr. Eleanor Chestnut is at hand. I am forwarding your letter to a warm personal friend of Dr. Chestnut who may be able to help you materially. Also I shall have inserted in our September Alumnae Sheet a request for any material from classmates and teachers and trust this means, the only available one, will give you the information desired. I enclose with this such data as is immediately available concerning her residence in the school.

Yours very truly,

H. S. Hay

Supt.

P.S. ~~Dr.~~ Eleanor Chestnut was graduated from this School in the Spring of 1891, having finished the regular two years course. As the records are not elaborate I doubt if I am able to find any further items, from them.

H. S. Hay

(Letter of Dr. Chesnut to Miss DeWitt.)

Lien-chou, China, Sept. 21st, 05.

My dear Katherine:

We have been having some cool weather- Oh just think of it, and the mosquitoes are taking a vacation so that I can actually write letters at night with little difficulty.

This morning, I really felt frisky - a foreign sensation. I should have liked to have had some fun but where was the chance so instead of playing I have been leading a sober life.

First I visited my patients in the hospital, as usual- then came up to the hill for breakfast. After that down again to hospital prayers. On my way back visited the cemetery and a little grave outside which is my special charge. It is that of a dear little child who died in the hospital not long ago. I have just planted geraniums on the graves. They look pretty and need but little attention. I should like some sweeter flowers but none thrive at this season.

After my return from the cemetery I worked a little while on a phrase book I am making for the new missionaries- but made so many mistakes that I soon abandoned it. I then read some of Kipling's short stories, but they tired me for I was not in a reading mood. This afternoon I have been admiring some clothing that the teacher bought for one of the boys that I am keeping in school. The poor boys, they are shabby, and I'm so sorry for them! I remember how shabby I was at Park College years ago. I do not mind nearly so much now wearing old things.

This evening I again visited my patients and after that, heard one of the Bible teachers recite a chapter in Corinthians.

This is a fair sample of the way that each day passes excepting those I spend at Sam Kong or when I visit a day school as I did yesterday. It ought to be a happy life and it is. I am more and more grateful

for the privilege of working here in China. Only once in a while I feel wicked as I have today and wish I could have a regular jambouree. But your life is a shut in one too, dear Katherine, and you have not all the beautiful things about you to stimulate you, that I have. I am glad you noticed the mountains in the picture I sent you. Yes: I think the scenery is more beautiful even than that of the Lake Country. It is very different- much wilder- Oh Katherine, after lo! these many days, I have read "Helbeck of Bannisdale." I had seen it reviewed and somehow the plot did not look tempting. But I was interested. Poor Laura! ~~my~~ mention of the Lake Country recalled the book to me for in it there is some allusion to it and to Wordsworth. Yes, the tour of England has broadened my vision considerably- though I do not remember localities with the distinctness that you do- and I was too tired and puzzle-headed and worried generally to absorb as much as I ought. That appears to be my usual condition when travelling.

But I shall not write any more tonight for the simple reason that there's nothing more to say - shall add on later.

September 26th.

Dear Katherine - This is a superb day and I wish that you were here so that we might enjoy it together. I have just been scrubbing Jackie, the cat. I wonder if you ever do such things. My sleeves are all wet from the process, but I do not mind, they are cooler that way. We have heard that the new missionaries are in Canton. I hope they will not be stranded there, we need them so much here. Dr. Niles writes that they are very fine looking people. I suppose we may expect them with the Machles in about a month. I do wish we might hear something definite. The hospital is as full as ever and most of the patients are doing well. I wish I could tell you about them, I know you would be interested. Later..... It is awfully hot this evening. It might be

August instead of nearly October. This afternoon Miss Patterson and I had a picture taken with Billy and Brownie- the ponies- if it is good I will send you one. Unfortunately I spoil every picture in which I appear- so I may cut off my half and send you only Miss Patterson's.

I know this is a dreadfully stupid letter, but it can at least serve to remind you of my love for you- and dear Mater.

Always affectionately,

Eleanor.

COPY.

Lien-chou, China, April 20th, 1905.

Rev. Arthur J. Brown,

156 Fifth Ave., New York City

My dear Dr. Brown:-

I am greatly indebted to you for your kind letter with its words of sympathy and encouraging message.

I appreciate the latter particularly since it helped you and Mrs. Brown too in a time of sadness.

I am sorry indeed for all the illnesses that have come your way, but I trust the spring may have brought with it new health and vigor to the sick ones.

I had a long illness, often trying to others I fear, as well as myself. I can never forget or repay the kindness of Mrs. Edwards, the self-sacrificing journey of Dr. Miles, her care afterwards, and the faithful and affectionate attention of my Chinese friends.

The remnant left now at the station are well.

Miss Patterson has gone to Shanghai, and Mr. and Mrs. Edwards are expecting soon to sail for America. We shall miss the latter very much. They have left behind them only golden opinions. Modest, self-sacrificing, patient in illness and cheerful always, they have proven themselves ideal missionaries in every sense of the word.

The work here is visibly prospering. Mr. Edwards will probably tell you all the interesting facts concerning it.

Your confidence in me inspires me with renewed zeal. We all need friends who believe in us. It emboldens me too, to make a request which will doubtless be a surprise to you. It is that when some one can be gotten to fill my place in Lien-chou, I may be allowed to work in Hongkong.

I have visited Kanghai twice since the station there was dissolved, and each time have felt a great desire to offer my services to the Board, for that field. It was hard though to decide to give up Lien-chou. I am attached to the place and the people. The opinion of the best missionaries is generally, that Kanghai is an

unsuitable place to locate a station; that the country about is but sparsely populated and that talent would be wasted there that might better be bestowed elsewhere.

They might be right or wrong about the station but I am satisfied that there would be plenty of work for one person, if it were only the instruction of the wives and children of the Christians in Homkwong. The place is too far from Canton and equally too far from Lien-chou for much direct supervision of the work of the native pastor. Mr. Edwards can tell you of some difficulties in the work there this past year that would have at least been much modified had a missionary been living at Nenghan.

As for isolation, I am not of a lonely sort when well and I am now looking forward to a long period of health.

Besides, some helpers from here would doubtless accompany me, were I to go, and my two medical students certainly. The latter are two accomplished Chinese ladies from Honolulu. Their dialect is that of the Homkwong district, and I am sure they would do much to win the hearts of the people there.

In regard to the work here. I feel that in many ways some one else could do it better, and it would be easier for a young missionary to fill the place here than that at Homkwong.

I have two points in my favor. I know the language and have experienced isolation without loneliness.

I should be glad to devote the rest of my life to the work at Homkwong. It would be a pleasure. I shall await your reply with eagerness.

With kindest regards to you and Mrs. Brown,

I am sincerely and gratefully yours,

(Signed) Eleanor Chesnut.



Dear Mr. Spier,

These memoranda  
are placed at your service,  
most willingly, but I doubt  
whether they add anything to your  
knowledge and impressions.

Yours sincerely,  
Ellen C. Parsons

Notes for Mr. Spur,  
Eleanor Chesnut

1. ~~Motherless~~

1. Orphan (Woman's Work, 1906, p. 36,  
near the top.)

2. Harsh adopted father up to  
12 yrs. of poor man always. Dr.  
Chesnut contributed to his sup-  
port many times (if not regular-  
ly) from her missionary salary.  
When she was here, she confided  
to me the pressure upon her mind  
from this man's letters. He was in  
Cal. She dreaded to see him, but  
thought she must visit him. I  
advised against it, in consid-  
eration of her weariness of mind  
and body and the duty to return  
to China in as good condition  
as possible. She was much reliev-  
ed to get this point of view and  
followed my advice.

After her death, a final  
instalment from her purse  
reached that same man.

3 - Starved for books, music, the beautiful.

(Women's Work 1906 : p. 35, "I enjoy the organ selfishly" etc; pp. 35, 36 "our beautiful country"; p. 36, "I remember how shabby I was at Park College".

4. Self-denial in large and small things. (Edl. Note, July 1906)

Mrs. Edwards told me that, as a member of her family, Dr. Chesnut was often asking to be excused from table so that she might carry her plate of soup, while it was hot, to some particular patient in the hospital; and again her delicate dessert of tapioca pudding, <sup>some fruit</sup> or the like.

And, Mrs. Edwards said, they scarcely ever could persuade her to take a second helping for herself. "She seemed to want the gift should be her very own, something she shared with her

sick people" and she would not allow another person to take the gift.

She had a string of "cases" on her  
purse - boys in school, ex-patients  
old women -

~~The~~ Great instances:

a. The year she was the only white face at  
Lienchow - (Woman's Work 1908, p.273)

It was in this year that she stirred  
the Chinese women to begin her  
hospital - See Ed's Note 1899, July,  
pp. 179, 180 - (grafting man's skin from  
her own. 1906, p.180)

b. Toil for the new ch. at Lienchow,  
while on furlough - Fired from her  
post-graduate medical work in  
New York, she was running hither &  
yon, up to Yondens, over into New  
Jersey, speaking for meeting on  
the chance of getting \$10 - or \$5  
for that church, until I growled  
and moved upon the Women's Bd.  
to help her out. (Woman's Work, 1906, p.180)

c. Threw away, three times, a chance to  
save her life, that day of the

190 ..... 156 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York, N.Y.  
msb. See what Wm. Hoops said:

Women's Work 1906, p.4. (near the  
bottom) "just her habit?"  
"If the other missionaries are going to be  
killed, I shall go & die with them!"  
A Foreign Missionary Magazine  
Presbyterian Building  
Woman's Work

She had the martyr spirit before  
 called to be a martyr. See ~~that~~ <sup>how</sup>  
 Katharine DeWitt replied to my  
 inquiry on that point. (W.R. 1906,  
 p. 7 - ~~was~~ just above the picture  
 and p. 8 —)

Dr. Grace Peckham Murray, who saw  
 her and admired her in the Clinics  
 during her post-graduate study,  
 wrote to me. "What a pity that such  
 a mind should be snuffed out  
 by barbarians"

Edl Notes - March 1906, Jan 1906 p. 1. Apr. 77  
 Picture to use August 1906 p. 179  
 Art. of special importance, 1906,  
 Aug. "Few Lien-chou Facts not Published  
 Before".

Instances of her merry speech.

"He played the organ so slowly", 1906 p. 180

"Dr. Niles is one of those persons who has such  
 an extraordinary judgment, that it seems as if  
 she might suggest something useful even  
 in the matter of turning around." (From  
 private letter, never printed.)

Her loyalty - Caring for the Christian graves.

3 - Starved for books, music  
and the beautiful.

(Woman's Work, 1906 - p. 35 "I enjoy the  
organ selfishly" etc. Also pp. 35, 36,  
"our beautiful country" - "more beau-  
tiful than the Lake Country" -

4 - Self-denial a leading trait.

Notice of E. Chesnut's Departure

1894, Nov. p. 307 (Woman's Work)

First letter printed Apr. 1895 p. 109

Second letter " July, '95 p. 197

Miss Parsons writes that  
Miss Katherine De Witt  
247 Brunswick St.  
Rochester, N.Y.

was Dr. Chesnut's most  
Confidential friend.

She does not speak of having  
any material herself about  
Dr. C.'s life. I suppose what  
she had was used in the  
preparation of articles  
in W. W.

E. E.  
L. L.



Woman's Work  
A Foreign Missionary Magazine  
Presbyterian Building

RECEIVED

AUG 26 1908

156 Fifth Avenue, New York,

131 Bridge St  
Northampton, Mass

Aug 25th 1908

Dear Mr. Speer,

via Mrs. Ellist, I have  
this morning recd. word  
that you are going to write  
a "life" of Eleanor Chesnut, and  
am rejoiced to know it. I  
wish I had heard of this  
before I left New York, for it  
will be difficult for anyone  
to find all the material that  
I have stowed away about her.  
Mrs. Ellist does not say when  
you must have this. If you  
require it, as I suspect you will,  
before Sept. 21st, I will do my  
best to tell Mrs. Ellist how to  
get hold of my papers and  
forward them to you. I  
will ask her to send you  
the address of Eleanor's maet

Confidential friend, from whom  
you can get more consecutive  
letters, perhaps, than almost any  
one else. She is Miss Katharine  
DeWitt, a trained nurse, who  
once carried Mrs. Dulles through  
an illness at Lake Forest. She  
and Dr. Chesnut were together at  
the Moody School in Chicago, and  
arranged to meet in England when  
Eleanor was on her way ~~home~~ <sup>to America</sup>  
the last time. I know Miss DeWitt  
as a fine woman, and anything  
you would draw out from her  
would be an honest and level  
headed opinion, not over in-  
fluenced, I should say, by  
her friendship. When you see  
Sept. Women's Work, please notice how  
well the pictures were printed. They  
had been below par for two months,  
and I had a heart-to-heart talk with  
Willitt on the subject before I came away.

Do you hear that plounging in my  
chamber? It is the carpenter, building a  
closet-wardrobe in the vacancy around the  
big old chimney which my father had in  
the center of our house, when he built it  
nearly 50 yrs. ago. It seemed queer to

Woman's Work

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156 Fifth Avenue, New York,

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uncover the cobwebs, hidden  
these decades, behind the back  
of the fireplace. Among the  
relics that were brought to  
light was a copy of "The Boston  
Recorder" of 1832 containing a  
letter from Mr. Bird of Syria.

Have Miss Holliday & Dr. Miller  
got out of Persia, yet?

I don't know where you  
are, so there is no other way  
than to mail to New York.

Please remember me to Mrs.  
Spier. I never saw her look  
better than when I met her last,  
in the hall at "156"; and I have  
loved to recall since how fresh  
and thoroughly well she looked.

Yours sincerely

Ellen C. Parsons.

August 26th, 1908.

Miss Ellen C. Parsons,  
131 Bridge Street,  
Northampton, Mass.

My dear Miss Parsons:-

Your kind letter of August 25th to Mr. Speer has just been received.

Mr. Speer wished to have the information regarding Dr. Chestnut gathered during his absence; but inasmuch as it would be so difficult for Mrs. Elliott to find your papers, although she is perfectly willing to take the time for it, I think I shall get all I can from other sources and not trouble you further until after your return.

Mrs. Elliott has given me the address of Miss DeWitt, to whom I had already written at another address. I will write her at this address also, as it may be a later one.

Thanking you for your help, and trusting that you are having a very pleasant vacation, I remain

Very sincerely yours,



Secretary to Mr. Speer.